

in Ha Noi. These are the most representative and important museums in the country for preserving and presenting the ceramic heritage of Viet Nam; and 5,562 pieces to each of the Hai Duong and Quang Nam provincial museums because these artifacts had been produced in Hai Duong and discovered in Quang Nam. In particular, the National Museum of Vietnamese History, Ha Noi, obtained 779 of the most unique and best objects selected for display. The remaining 90 percent of the artifacts were consigned to Butterfields for auction.

CHINESE CERAMICS

Chinese ceramics are found on the shipwrecks of Cu Lao Cham, Hon Cau, Binh Thuan, and Ca Mau. All of them were produced in the Ming dynasty (1368–1644) and Qing dynasty (1644–1912). A small number of Ming ceramics on the Cu Lao Cham wreck, seen as sailors' objects, are dated to the late fifteenth century. Ceramics of the Binh Thuan wreck are dated to the Wanli period (1573–1620). Most Qing artifacts on Hon Cau and Ca Mau wrecks date to 1690 and 1723–35.

MING CERAMICS

On the Cu Lao Cham shipwreck

These late-fifteenth-century items include celadon and blue-and-white ceramics.

Celadon:

Only two forms were found: dishes and stem cups.

The first consists of two yellowish-green dishes with thick rims and interiors decorated with chrysanthemum, a common feature of Ming celadon. Three additional bright yellow dishes, of which two are the same size and one is smaller, have exterior walls decorated with chrysanthemums and the interior with carved flowers. The backs have circular scars.

The stem cups have flared mouths, a bamboo-shaped foot, and walls incised with lotus petals outside and spiral bands inside.

This kind of celadon came from southern China.

Blue-and-white porcelain:

There are three bowls with flared lips, deep interiors, and a low foot, as well as two plates and one *yuhuchun* lidded ewer. One bowl's interior has a design with a cross-shaped flower; two others have waves. One large plate is decorated with a unicorn, clouds, and flowers; another smaller plate has a chrysanthemum design in its interior. The *yuhuchun* ewer has a lotus-shaped lid.

In general, these wares are of average quality. Their decorative motifs (unicorn, cross-shaped flower) were common from the late fourteenth century through the early sixteenth century. As Professor Peter Lam rightly suggested, they are not products of the official kilns of Jingdezhen. They provide helpful items, however, for dating the Cu Lao Cham ship.

On the Binh Thuan shipwreck

Sixty thousand recovered items have been classified in four groups:

Flat white and grayish-white ceramics:

They include five types—bowls, basins, plates, jars, and bottles—of which the basin-shaped plates are most common. This type came from Sung and Yuan ceramics (eleventh-thirteenth centuries). One kind of jar with a